

## II. BIRDS.

By R. BOWDLER SHARPE.

The relations of the Avifauna of Christmas Island can hardly be judged by the few specimens in the collection, as there are doubtless some other indigenous species to be found in the island ; but the discovery of an isolated species of *Carpophaga*, and of a Thrush whose nearest ally is a West-African species, is of great interest.

1. *TURDUS ERYTHROPLEURUS*, sp. n.

*T. similis* *T. pelio*, sed corporis lateribus cervinis et subalaribus cinerascanti-albis nec aurantiaco-fulvis distinguendus.

*Adult female* (type of species). General colour above ashy olive-brown, a little clearer brown on the lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts ; wing-coverts like the back, the greater series somewhat fulvous-brown externally, with a yellowish-buff spot at the ends (doubtless the remains of young plumage) ; bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and quills dusky brown, externally ashy on the primaries, the others externally like the back ; tail-feathers dusky brown, washed with olive-brown on both webs ; crown of head ashy brown, the feathers at the base of the forehead and above the eye whitish ; lores dull ashy ; sides of face, ear-coverts, and cheeks light ashy brown ; throat white, streaked with brown along the sides of the throat ; fore neck, breast, and sides of body light tawny, deeper on the latter, with a shade of ashy on the fore neck and chest, the feathers on the flanks edged with ashy whitish ; centre of lower breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts white, the latter edged with pale tawny ; axillaries and under wing-coverts ashy whitish, with a slight tinge of tawny ; quills dusky below, ashy along the inner web. Total length 7·8 inches, culmen 0·9, wing 4, tail 3, tarsus 1·2.

*CARPOPHAGA WHARTONI*, sp. n. (Plate XLIII.)

This is apparently quite a new species of Fruit-Pigeon. It has uniform chestnut-brown under tail-coverts like *C. aenea*, to which section it belongs ; but here resemblance ends, for in its uniform dusky coloration it is difficult to find an immediate ally unless it be *C. ianthina* of Japan. The latter is an equally dark-coloured bird, but the beautiful purple and green lustre on the upper parts of the Japanese species is quite different from the dull-coloured plumage of *C. whartoni*.

I add a detailed description of the type of the latter species :—

*Adult male*. General colour above dull green, with a very slight gloss of bronze, the latter shade being more evident on the wing-coverts and scapulars ; wing-coverts like the back, the greater coverts externally glossy green with a bronzy tinge ; bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and quills blackish, externally glossy green with more or less of a bronzy gloss, especially on the inner secondaries ; lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts like the back, the latter rather more

green; tail-feathers dark bluish green, glossy bronzy green on the outer aspect; crown of head dingy brown with a very slight bronzy gloss, the forehead, lores, and base of cheeks ashy grey; the ear-coverts, remainder of cheeks, throat, and fore neck dusky ashy, with a slight vinaceous tinge which is a little more pronounced on the breast and abdomen; the sides of the body, flanks, and thighs dark slaty grey with a greenish gloss; under tail-coverts chestnut-brown; under wing-coverts and axillaries dark slaty grey; quills light ashy underneath. Total length 16·5 inches, culmen from frontal plumes 0·85, wing 10·3, tail 6·8, tarsus 1·25.

*ARDEA JUGULARIS*, Forster; Schlegel, Mus. Pays-Bas, Ardeæ, p. 25.

A female in entirely white plumage. The legs are yellow, more dusky on the tarsus, which has a good deal of black.

*SULA PISCATRIX* (L.); Schlegel, Mus. Pays-Bas, Pelecani, p. 40.  
An adult female in full plumage.

*FREGATA AQUILA* (L.); Schlegel, *t. c.* p. 2.

An adult bird. An interesting note on the habits of the bird in the neighbourhood of Java is given, from the notes of the Vicomte de Bocarmé, in Schlegel's 'Catalogue' (*t. c.*).

### III. REPTILES.

By G. A. BOULENGER.

#### 1. *GYMNODACTYLUS MARMORATUS*, Kuhl.

#### 2. *LYGOSOMA NATIVITATIS*, sp. n.

Section *Emoa*. Habit lacertiform; the distance between the end of the snout and the fore limb is contained once and a half in the distance between axilla and groin. Snout long, obtuse. Lower eyelid with an undivided transparent disk. Nostril pierced between a nasal, a postnasal, and a supranasal; frontonasal broader than long, forming a suture with the rostral and with the frontal; latter shield nearly as long as the frontoparietal, in contact with the first and second supraoculars; four supraoculars; eight supraciliaries; frontoparietals united into a single large shield; a small interparietal, behind which the parietals form a suture; a pair of nuchals and a pair of temporals border the parietals; five labials anterior to the large subocular. Ear-opening oval, a little larger than the transparent palpebral disk, with three or four very small lobules on its anterior border. Thirty-four scales round the middle of the body, all smooth, lateral a little smaller than dorsal and ventral. No enlarged præanals. The hind limb reaches the elbow. Digits moderately elongate, a little flattened at the base, compressed at the